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PRESS RELEASE

DISSEMINATION OF BANGLADESH DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY 2011 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

DHAKA, APRIL 17 -- Preliminary results of the 2011 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) were released today under the auspices of the Advisor to the Prime Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Modasser Ali and the U.S. Ambassador, Dan Mozena. The 2011 BDHS is the sixth such survey in Bangladesh since 1993—all funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)—and conducted in partnership with the National Institute for Population Research and Training, Bangladesh. The BDHS is widely used by policymakers, development partners, researchers and program managers to monitor program performance in population, health and nutrition.

The BDHS report highlights the major changes that have taken place in Bangladesh's demographic and health situation since the previous survey in 2007. The BDHS provides information to monitor and evaluate health and family planning programs, and to provide program managers and policymakers with information to plan and implement future interventions. More specifically, the BDHS provides up-to-date information on fertility and childhood mortality, breastfeeding practices, nutrition levels, maternal and child health, awareness of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, as well as other important topics.

USAID and Bangladesh Government will work together to inform health care providers and civil society on the progress and the constraints that need to be addressed for further improve child survival, increase family planning use and better care for expectant mothers. USAID is working with The Press Institute of Bangladesh, International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh and USAID's Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) to build capacity among practicing journalists, journalism students and Bangladeshi health professionals to enhance research skills and report accurately on health and population trends in Bangladesh.

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